



SWARC NEWS

Meeting Notes

SWARC 4 MAY 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on-the-air at 7:00 pm by President Mike Gaither, K4MWG. We were once again social distancing as hams do by holding our meeting via radio from the comfort of our homes.

Those checking in as present were: K7RLH, KK4BK, K4MWG, NW3U, KK4QDZ, KN4OEY, KD4MC, KJ4CVK, WA4TCJ, KI4LO, N4RL, K4MSE, AND KA0GMY.

President Mike reminded everyone that we still have raffle tickets for members to sell; he is hoping that we will be able to meet at the AL Post in June, but it all hinges on restrictions being removed or lessened.

Field Day was discussed, but nothing definite can be planned yet for the same reason(s).

Dave Yow, K4MSE, Nominating Committee Chair, presented a slate of nominees for club officer positions. We have at least one person stepping up for each elected position. His report is as follows:

President – KK4BK, Brian Knox

V. President – K7RLH, Richard Hall

Sec'y – KN4JJU, Andy McDaniel

Treas. – KJ4AEO, Christine Fernandini

Membership – NC4RA, Ryan Avery

Mbr-at-Lge – WA4TCJ, Al Crawford

Mbr-at-Lge – N4BAJ, Bernie Jones

President Mike asked if there were any nominations from the floor and the silence was overwhelming. Dave Yow then moved that all current officers should continue to serve until we can have the required in-person meeting in June or later, as required by the club by-laws. Mike Callam seconded and the motion carried.

President Mike stated that the financial position had not changed since we have not been meeting and all bills have been paid. He also noted that membership renewals will begin in July and that we may keep the current radio room door code for an extended period due to current restrictions.

Steve Mowels, KA0GMY, mentioned that Nancy Avery recently had a stroke and is now at home. VP Brian Knox was asked to get some flowers and a card for her from the club. Steve also indicated that he would like to continue publishing the club newsletter, but said that he would reach out to Brian

Knox or Richard Hall if he needed help due to health concerns. We are very thankful for his efforts.

Our second social distancing meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

SWARC 1 JUN 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by President Mike Gaither-K4MWG. Those in attendance were: KK4BK-Brian Knox, K7RLH-Richard Hall, WA4TCJ-Al Crawford and KJ4AEO-Christine Fernandini. Bill Blomgren, KK4QDZ, was present as well (guest) for the board meeting.

The board discussed upcoming events that affect club members:

- We will hold another meeting on the net on 8 June 2020 for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year and to discuss Field Day 2020.
- We are forced to take this approach since we had only six members show up for a scheduled member meeting tonight where we intended to practice 'social distancing' and conduct the election.
- We discussed how to operate on Field Day; the consensus being that we could follow ARRL Waiver guidelines and operate individually as a 1D Station and record contacts by including SWARC in the comments, or, we can do both, i.e., have folks that can operate portably show up and others do the 1D Station. This will accommodate those that enjoy operating portable and those who feel that they need to 'socially distance' and stay at home.

- VP Brian Knox, KK4BK, will email the membership to advertise the net meeting for 8 June;

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

SWARC 8 JUNE 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order on-the-air at 7:00 pm by President Mike Gaither, K4MWG. We were once again social distancing as hams do by holding our meeting via radio from the comfort of our homes.

Those checking in as present were: K7RLH, KK4BK, K4MWG, KD4MC, K4VJC, K4ITL, KK4QDZ, KJ4CVK, WA4TCJ, KI4LO, N4BAJ, K4AAA, KN4JJU, K4IPL, & WB4UFO.

Secretary Richard Hall, K7RLH, read the slate of officers as presented by the Nomination Committee. He asked individually for any nominations from the floor for any of the offices. Hearing nothing, he moved that the slate be elected by acclamation; seconded by Mike Callam, KD4MC, and the motion carried. The new officers, who will take office on 1 July 2020, are as follows:

President – KK4BK, Brian Knox

Vice President – K7RLH, Richard Hall

Secretary – KN4JJU, Andy McDaniel

Treasurer – KJ4AEO, Christine Fernandini

Membership – NC4RA, Ryan Avery

Member-at-Large – WA4TCJ, Al Crawford

Member-at-Large – N4BAJ, Bernie Jones

President Mike, K4MWG, called on VP Brian Knox, KK4BK, to discuss Field Day. Brian reiterated the ARRL Rules that include a waiver to allow stations operating as Class D, from home, to be counted individually and also for the Club operating as some form of Class A on the American Legion Post 116 property and at the SWARC Radio Room. There was discussion regarding the evening meal, but that is still on hold and TBD as COVID-19 restrictions might allow at that time.

Mike Callam, KD4MC, asked about turning in monies for the raffle tickets and he was advised that tickets and money could be turned in on Field Day Saturday or by prior arrangement at some other location.

Having no further club business, our third social distancing meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

73, Richard Hall – K7RLH – Secretary

[Congratulations to the new Officers. Thank you for stepping up. We also want to say THANK YOU to the departing officers for their service.](#)

South Wake Amateur Radio Club Treasurer Report May 2020

Club Addition and Reduction Activity

Additions

Dues	30.00	check# 4596	Scott Wilkinson (KJ4UTC)
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Total

Additions 30.00

Reductions

PO Box	148.00	check# 1690	PO Box Annual Fee
Flowers	70.19	check# 1691	reimbursed Mike Gaither for ham shack and cups for meal

Total

Reductions 218.19

RBC Bank Account Activity

Balance as of 04/06/2020	1492.50		
Addition	30.00		
Reduction	218.19		

Balance as of

04/06/2020 1304.31

Christine Fernandini KJ4AEO
06/01/2020

MEMBERSHIP

Just a reminder that it is coming up on time to pay membership dues.

\$30 for individual and \$5 for each family member.

You can bring a check or cash to the meeting Monday October 7th or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will let me know she has received them so I can update the list. If you mail them, give me a heads up so I can mark it as pending on the roster.

Makes checks payable to South Wake ARC.

If you are going to mail it, send it to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

I will be developing an online form so new members can fill out the application online and mail or bring a check to a meeting.

I will be reaching out to all members here soon to make sure I have the latest contact information, addresses, etc so I can make sure the membership list reflects current information.

Thanks

Ryan Avery

NC4RA

rwavery@charter.net

NET REPORT

NetCountsMonth	
NetDate	DailyCount
5/30/20	18
5/29/20	21
5/28/20	28
5/27/20	18
5/26/20	29
5/25/20	34
5/24/20	33
5/23/20	24
5/22/20	20
5/21/20	39
5/20/20	31
5/19/20	11
5/18/20	35
5/17/20	21
5/16/20	16
5/15/20	18
5/14/20	31
5/13/20	29
5/12/20	48
5/11/20	31
5/10/20	20
5/9/20	20
5/8/20	16
5/7/20	31
5/6/20	31
5/5/20	27
5/4/20	43
5/3/20	29
5/2/20	16
5/1/20	44

NetCountsCallSign	
Callsign	NetsAttended
KK4QDZ	47
N4BAJ	40
KD4MC	33
KE4QBW	28
KJ4WLG	28
N1VK	28
K7RLH	26
KM4ARS	25

NetCountsCallSign	
Callsign	NetsAttended
KE5OLM	25
KN4OEY	24
WB4UFO	24
W1AAN	24
K4VJC	22
WA3JJG	22
WA4TCJ	19
KK4QEE	16
K4ZXX	16
N2UHI	14
KJ4CVK	13
N4NCK	12
KN4VTT	11
KN4RFT	11
N4AED	10

Public Service

Check the RARS web site often for Public Service opportunities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Appointed Positions

President

Brian Knox – KK4BK

Vice President

Richard Hall – K7RLH

Secretary

Andy McDaniel – KN4JJU

Treasurer

Christy Fernandini - KJ4AEO

Member-At-Large

Al Crawford – WA4TCJ

Member-At-Large

Bernie Jones – N4BAJ

Member-At-Large

Mike Gaither – K4MWG

Membership Chair

NET MANAGER

Joe - KM4YTF

Special Events Director

Gino Fernandini – KI4YXO

Public Service Director

David Krum – NW3U

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of our members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service.

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network www.ncprn.net

GigaParts www.gigaparts.com

QRZ www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS www.jars..net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC www.southwakearc.com

There are events going on all the time: you got Islands on the Air (IOTA), and then there is working Light Houses, don't forget all the special events there is something new each week. Here is one for you Mark, N4MQU is always setting up and working from different locations or likes to run different nets as the net control. See how many times you can work Mark in his different rolls during the

week. If nothing else take your radio to the backyard and work some stations. Just have fun.

Field Day should be happening. Check with Brian KK4BK concerning details and ways you can help. Every year after this event I hear a group saying how they would do something different. Well now is the chance to make your improvements. Let KK4BK know you want to help this way we can talk about you after the event.

ATTENTION

Our club is like other clubs we have a mixture of memberships. We have everything from young pre-teen members to those like myself who were active during the Civil War. Anyway the point I am trying to make is us younger guys need to be checking in on our older members to see if they could use any help. I know several have reached out to me and I do appreciate it. I want to thank Brian, KK4BK Mike, K4MWG David, KN4OFB Thomas, WW4TLB. These are just a few who have reached out to me on a weekly basis and offered help so I thank you all but please don't forget the others. I know they don't like to admit it but just to name a few of our older members there is Al, WA4TCJ Bernie, N4BAJ Richard, K7RLH (who is also as old as I am) The point is please check in on the older or disabled members of the club and see if you can help and do not necessarily take no for an answer. Sometimes the no is because we do not want to bother someone with such a small task or just do not feel right imposing on someone. I am repeating this statement from the last newsletter as I feel strongly about it but let's look at the other end of the hobby. How many times have you welcomed someone to the hobby and then forgot about them. How about from now on we say hey welcome to the hobby and if I can help out let me know and then later do a follow up and make sure they were doing okay. It can make a difference to someone enjoying the hobby or not. Who did you check on this week?

For most of us, ARRL **Field Day** 2020 is going to look quite different than it did in past years. Considering the impact of social distancing due to the pandemic, many radio clubs and large groups will not gather in their usual Field Day locations this year. Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a Field Day first-timer, there are many questions about how to participate in amateur radio's largest annual on-air event under these unusual circumstances. Here are some tips and suggestions to help you plan this year's operation.

Don't Forget 6 Meters

Remember, Field Day is a non-adjudicated operating event and not a "full speed ahead" contest. It is also not an HF-only event. All amateur radio bands above 50 MHz may be used during the event too.

This includes 6 meters, which often offers significant propagation enhancements in the summer months around Field Day weekend, to help you make contacts. The band is available to amateurs holding a Technician-class license or higher. If you have an HF/VHF/UHF multi-mode transceiver, try making SSB, CW, or digital contacts on 6 meters. You don't need fancy beams or large antenna arrays. A simple vertical or dipole will allow you to experience operating on the "Magic Band."

Activities for Techs

One suggestion for clubs to consider in order to increase participation among their Technician-class members is to schedule specific times where these club members will monitor designated VHF and UHF simplex frequencies for Field Day activity. Keep in mind that the published national FM simplex calling frequencies should be avoided, and the use of repeaters is prohibited for Field Day contacts. This way, members who have equipment capable of VHF/UHF-only operation may be able to participate from their homes or vehicles. Your club can choose a list of frequencies and scheduled times in advance, and publish them in the club newsletter, or via email or other electronic means before the start of the event.

On the HF bands, Technician-class licensees have CW privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, as well as RTTY/data and SSB phone privileges on 10 meters. If you aren't a CW operator, try calling CQ on 10-meter SSB in the late afternoon and early evening on Saturday and see if conditions are favorable for long-distance communications. Try experimenting with a simple wire antenna for 10 meters. You might discover that the band can offer plenty of unexpected propagation.

Get Set Up for Digital Modes

You might want to explore one of the newer FT4/FT8 digital modes on 10 meters, 6 meters, or even the VHF/UHF bands. These modes offer an opportunity to make weak-signal contacts when band conditions often do not support voice communication. There have been reports of some great 6-meter openings in recent weeks, and these are likely to occur more frequently as the summer months approach. If you've never experimented with digital modes, perhaps this year is an opportunity to give them a try.

Setup is relatively straightforward. You'll need a computer and a digital interface to connect the radio to the computer, and you'll need to download one of the digital mode software packages such as the free **WSJT-X** suite, which incorporates FT8 and FT4. Many modern transceivers have built-in support for digital modes, so in those cases, all you'll need is the proper cable to connect the radio to the computer's USB port. You'll need software that supports the ARRL Field Day exchange (**WSJT-X** version 2.0 or later, for example). ARRL's book ***Get on the Air with HF Digital (2nd Edition)*** is also a great primer for anyone beginning to explore the digital modes.

The Excitement of Ham Satellites

Another area you might wish to explore is operating via one of the amateur radio satellites, or "birds," as they're often called. Many hams have had success making contacts via the FM satellites by using a VHF/UHF handheld radio and a small handheld directional antenna, or a multi-mode VHF/UHF transceiver for the linear (SSB and CW) satellites. You'll only be able to work the satellites when they

are overhead, so you'll need to know when they will be visible at your operating location. Visit AMSAT's [Online Satellite Pass Prediction](#) page to see which ones will be orbiting overhead, and at what times they'll be visible. You can find many satellite operating tips and resources on the [AMSAT website](#) too.

An Opportunity for Learning

ARRL Field Day 2020 may be the year you decide to participate solo, or with other members of your household. You may want to focus on expanding your knowledge base and experiment with new modes or bands that you never thought of using before. If you're a mentor to a newer ham, Field Day can be an opportunity to share some of your knowledge, and for *you* to expand your own operating horizons. This might be the year to leave your Field Day comfort zone and try something new!

